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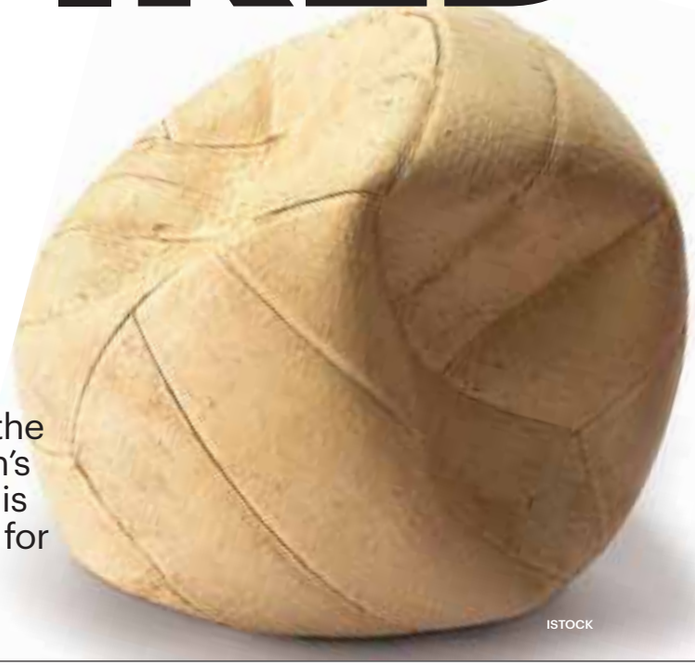

ISTOCK

After 24 years, the national women's volleyball team is leaving the city for Richmond, B.C.

metroNEWS

Police to ride buses

TRANSIT

Measure intended to make high crime routes safer

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Police Service has confirmed that officers will be riding Winnipeg Transit buses.

According to a report released before the upcoming Police Board meeting on Feb. 5, both cadets and officers in uniform will be riding buses, especially those buses that travel through high-crime areas.

Constable Eric Hofley said cadets have been on buses since early 2015.

"In addition, uniform members, specifically foot patrol officers primarily in the downtown area, will now also be riding on buses, as duties allow," said Hofley.

Cadets and downtown beat officers will be patrolling buses and bus shelters randomly. All cadets and officers will be in uniform, the report added.

John Callahan, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505, was not available to comment Monday, but told Metro on Jan. 20 that measures to create safer buses were not coming fast enough.

Coun. Matt Allard, who has championed the idea since September 2015, said he was happy to see the next steps coming forward.

"I'm happy to see this is certainly going in the right direction," he said.

Allard said Couns. Cindy Gilroy, Brian Mayes, Ross Eadie and Scott Gillingham all helped push for officers on transit buses to happen.

"What's going on is not that we're going to have a cadet or uniformed officer on every bus," said Allard. "There's an awareness that there's a chance that there's a police (officer) on every bus."

Winnipeg Transit statistics show that about 60 bus operators were assaulted in 2015, compared to 39 in 2014.

WITH FILES FROM STEPHANIE TAYLOR

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metro NEWS

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Tim Hortons, Burger King commit to serving only cage-free eggs at all locations by 2025. **Business**

$2B to fix dilapidated First Nations homes in province

REPORT

Feds have slated $150M for housing across country

Internal government documents say Manitoba First Nations live in some of the most dilapidated homes in the country and it will cost $2 billion to eliminate mould and chronic overcrowding in that province alone.

That's almost 13 times more than the $150 million the federal government has budgeted for housing on all reserves across Canada this year.

> Key challenges continue to include affordability, low income and high social assistance rates.
> January 2015 report

Reports from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, obtained by The Canadian Press under access-to-information legislation, say the housing situation in Manitoba has worsened as infrastructure funding has been siphoned off to other areas.

"As a result, Manitoba First Nations continue to face further deterioration in infrastructure," says the internal report dated January 2015.

"Current estimates indicate a $1.9B need to address existing overcrowding, replacement and major repairs related to mould and substandard conditions of housing units. Key challenges continue to include affordability, low income and high social assistance rates."

The report notes Manitoba has among the highest percentage at 29 of indigenous people living in poor housing in Canada.

Officials say Alberta is the only other province in a similar situation.

One quarter of existing homes on reserves in both provinces need to be repaired or replaced.

Chief David McDougall said the situation is a "ticking time bomb" in his remote aboriginal community of St. Theresa Point in northern Manitoba. The waiting list for housing on the cluster of four reserves in his tribal council is 1,500. Last year, his reserve got 18 units.

They were the lucky ones. Other reserves got less than that.

It's not uncommon for 18 people to live in a small bungalow, McDougall said. Last year, there were 23 people living in a two-bedroom home.

"They had to take turns sleeping."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A stray dog looks for food outside a home in Easterville, a reserve north of Winnipeg.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

On-reserve housing funding will drop to $29M next year.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Only $50 million budgeted for reserve housing: Report

While the government's own estimates put Manitoba's housing needs at $2 billion, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada says $50 million is budgeted for on-reserve housing in the province this year.

That is to drop to $29 million next year.

Some reserves can build additional homes with a ministerial loan guarantee, but Chief David McDougall said that isn't available if the reserve is under third-party management. The department's internal report said only 30 per cent of Manitoba reserves operate independently.

People on McDougall's reserve of St. Theresa Point are losing hope, he said.

Suicides are on the rise while others turn to a homemade alcoholic concoction called "superjuice."

The federal government spent the last few years hooking up the reserve's homes to water and sewer, but McDougall compared that to putting new tires on a rusty, decrepit car.

"We need to find a proper, sustainable solution — what is realistic in terms of how we can begin to even make a dent in this huge backlog."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS

Homes a 'disgrace': Minister

Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says she's not deterred by the $2-billion price tag to fix Manitoba's ramshackle homes on First Nations.

She couldn't explain exactly how the new Liberal government will tackle the backlog, but said improving First Nations housing is a priority.

"I've been in those homes," Bennett said in an interview. "It is a disgrace for Canadians to watch. There is a consensus in this country that we have got to get going on this.

"The sticker shock on any of these things can't get in the way of us beginning what has to happen."

Leilani Farha, United Nations special rapporteur on the right to housing, said her predecessor conducted a in-depth investigation in 2007 which evaluated the adequacy of on-reserve housing. He concluded "we have a crisis on our hands," she said.

Canada needs a national housing strategy firmly rooted in human rights, she said.

"It will cost money but there is money in one of the wealthiest countries in the world," Farha said in Ottawa Monday. "That is the standard to which Canada needs to be held."

Ottawa has been warned before about the housing situation on Manitoba reserves. A 2011 internal assessment of on-reserve housing said communities don't have the means to maintain the homes they have, which often require "aggressive maintenance."

"The consequences are manifold: maintaining housing stock is costly, poorly maintained housing is unsafe and contributes to poor health, which in itself generates additional costs," stated the report.

An evaluation three years before found people on reserves were living in homes that were "falling apart" and rife with mould, which made them "not suitable for people with breathing problems." It noted two people died in one community "related to wiring and lack of heat."

Craig Makinaw, Alberta regional chief with the Assembly of First Nations, said the situation is dire for some First Nations. "All the cuts that have happened over the years have caused this backlog," he said. "It needs to be addressed because it's not going to get any better."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRANSCONA

Man points gun at female driver

A Winnipeg woman was not hurt after she says a man in a random truck pointed a gun at her.

Winnipeg police said they were notified of the incident, which happened early Monday morning just before 2 a.m.

The victim told officers she saw the man driving an older-model pickup truck near Lagimodiere Boulevard and Regent Avenue. While she was stopped at the intersection, the man driving the truck pointed a gun at her.

She sped away and headed to the East District Police Station to report the incident, and at the time did not believe the man had fired a shot.

However, police said they found her vehicle may have been hit by a bullet.

Members of the Winnipeg Police Service major crimes unit continue to investigate the incident.

METRO

WITNESSES

Anyone with information or the identity of the suspect is encouraged to call investigators at 204-986-6219 or Crime Stoppers at 204-786-8577.

POLICE SERVICES

Indigenous input informs policies

The Winnipeg Police Board is making an effort towards ensuring bias-free policing with a new policy draft published Monday.

Board chair Scott Gillingham said the policy is — in part — a response to consultations done last spring.

"We heard — particularly from the indigenous community in our consultations with them — a couple of times concerns over biases," Gillingham said.

He explained that the board, now just two years into its existence, is required under the Police Services Act to establish policies for effective management of the police service, and is just starting to get "foundational blocks laid."

"We determined a bias-free policy was one of the first we would establish," he said.

The policy, to be tabled at the Feb. 5 board meeting for public input and review, bases its clauses on aligning police services with the principles of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Code.

If adopted, it would direct the Winnipeg police chief to use training, reporting and directives to members of the force to provide bias-free policing.

> **We heard ... concerns over biases.**
> Scott Gillingham

Gillingham emphasized the police have been helpful in drafting this policy, and getting further public feedback is important to the board.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

The high price of veggies has actually slightly increased donations, as grocers are unable to sell them to consumers. THINKSTOCK

Winnipeg Harvest OK despite cost hikes

FOOD SECURITY

Report on essentials to get updated with increases

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Food banks that purchase produce are feeling the pinch as the price of fresh veggies rises, but Winnipeg Harvest doesn't purchase food.

It relies on donations, and in that sense, the spike in produce prices has not hurt the food bank at all — if anything, it has helped, according to Donald Benham, the manager of hunger and poverty awareness for Winnipeg Harvest.

There's no data to support this, but anecdotally Benham says there is a "tiny increase with donations from grocery stores."

"It's slightly up, so if there's a trend at all, that's the trend," he said.

He speculates it "may show the fresh fruits and vegetables are not being purchased by consumers."

"In that sense, it's of slight benefit to us, but not huge one way or another," he said.

The more important issue in his mind is just how unaffordable basic sustenance is becoming.

In 2012, Winnipeg Harvest prepared an acceptable living report that asked working poor, unemployed and low-income people what they considered to be the bare minimum grocery list.

"We gathered clients together ... said, 'You guys are our consultants,'" Benham said.

"We said, 'What do you think are the basic necessities,' and they produced this list (of foods)."

This year, Winnipeg Harvest will refresh that list with the current elevated prices.

"The information in (the report) is now four years old, so we will update all of the prices and re-release that later this year," Benham said.

That data is likely to come in March, after which Benham said he'd repeat the 2012 consultation process and find out how clients' definitions of essential and expectations of bare minimum have changed as food prices increase.

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Weekly Transit News Update

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Canadians Janie Guimond and Lucille Charuk during 2015 world qualifying play. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Women's national volleyball a net loss

ATHLETICS

Moving to B.C. after 24 years

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The Canadian women's national volleyball team has called Winnipeg home for 24 years, but this summer will be its last in the city.

Volleyball Manitoba was informed last week their bid submission to keep the team was unsuccessful; A formal announcement will be made by Volleyball Canada on Tuesday that the team will relocate to Richmond, B.C. in early 2017.

"I can definitely say it's disappointing that the team is moving after being here for so long," said John Blacher, Volleyball Manitoba Executive Director.

He explained having the team based out of Winnipeg "has had a direct and indirect impact" on the local sports scene, benefitting "coaching, athlete development, officials training… sport tourism and economic impact."

"We're going to miss the program, for sure," he said.

Winnipeg also hosted the men's national volleyball team between 1997 and 2008, when it moved to Gatineau, Que.

Blacher's hope is, altruistically "the decision works out" for the team, and he admits a change of scenery can "change the tides and give (teams) a little boost."

"That's what the program is about, getting to the Olympic games," he said, adding the women haven't qualified since 1996.

> **I can definitely say it's disappointing.**
> John Blacher

Manitoba's bid proposed a change, too, including use of the new Sport Manitoba Sport for Life Fieldhouse, but the national committee chose Richmond.

Jeff Powel, General Manager of Canadian Sport Centre Manitoba — both provincially and federally funded — said the move will affect how much money the centre receives.

"There's a funding formula that includes the number of national team members working at the sport centre, so that obviously doesn't look good for us," he said. "We don't know exactly what the financial impact will be… it will exist and it will be negative, but to put a number now is too soon."

Like Blacher, he said the bigger loss, no matter the funding loss, will be to "young up-and-coming athletes… who no longer have a national team" example close to home.

Powel hopes to attract another national team, but says it's a "pretty challenging landscape," in which most teams have a home, and Winnipeg has now lost two teams in a short time span.

"Having just lost a competitive bid process, the sport community needs to figure out whether there are resources to approach another national team… they want an environment where they can produce champions," he said. "If they don't think that spot is Manitoba they won't come here."

POLITICS

Tories turf candidate for performance

MANITOBA ELECTION 2016

Manitoba's Opposition party has fired a candidate over what it called concerns about his campaign performance.

David Horbas was nominated as the Progressive Conservative candidate in Selkirk in 2014 and was suddenly forced out over the weekend.

Party spokesman Michael Richards says the Tories have targets for each local campaign to meet, and there were concerns that the team in Selkirk was not meeting those targets.

Richards would not reveal details, saying the party's operational targets are an internal matter.

The Tories must now find a new candidate in the constituency, which has long been held by the NDP, with less than three months to go until the provincial election.

Horbas said he is disappointed by the decision and was never given a specific reason for his ousting.

"I feel at the least that I should have been given specifics of my alleged deficient performance, and an opportunity to defend myself and correct any shortcomings," Horbas said in a written statement.

The Selkirk constituency is currently held by NDP Finance Minister Greg Dewar, although the Tories are hoping to pick up seats in the April 19 election based on opinion polls that suggest they have a 20-point lead on the governing party.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SERVICES

City rejects 'one zone to rule them all' idea

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The City of Winnipeg is not planning to expand the "Know your zone" program across all civic services.

Coun. Scott Gillingham brought the idea to the city's public works committee in June 2015, and city administration has since investigated how other cities implement zones for services like snow clearing and street cleaning.

Administration also looked into the cost efficiency and feasibility of having one zone to rule them all — or for each zone denote the same service schedule for every service the city offers.

A report on their findings will be back before committee Tuesday, and recommends not going forward with the consistent zone plan.

"Administration highlighted the complexities around one zone for all services," said Gillingham. "The reason I called for this report was the goal of simplicity … To simplify the zone delineations for those services, whether it be snow clearing or spring cleaning or insect control."

Although his concept for achieving simplicity wasn't supported, the report does support the spirit of what he was trying to do.

> **The reason I called for this report was the goal of simplicity**
> Coun. Scott Gillingham

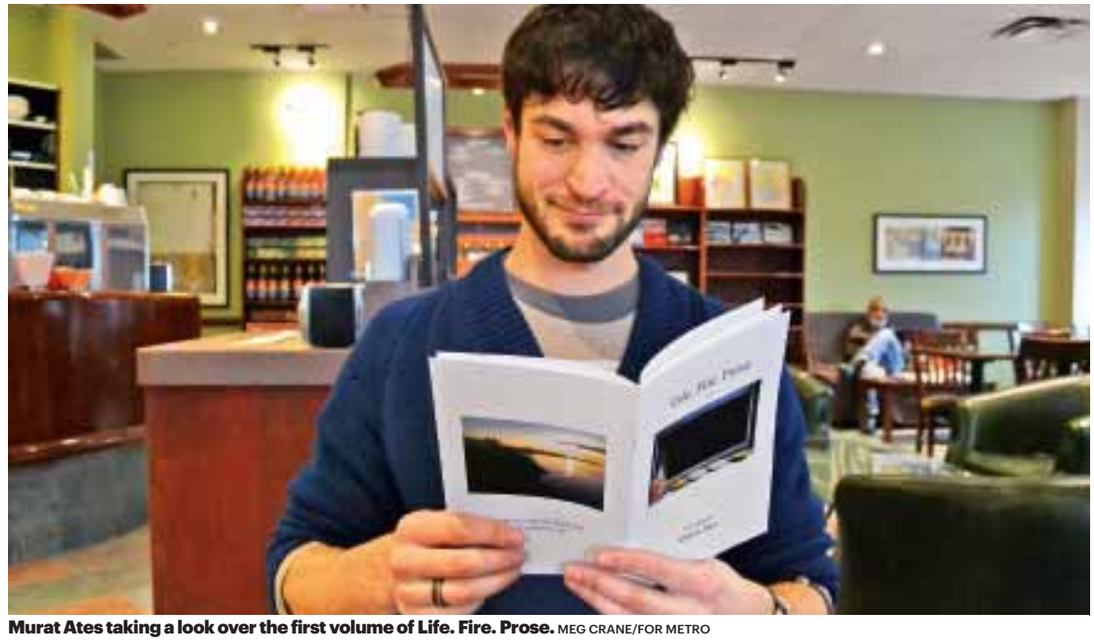
"(The report) indicates there is room for improvement, specifically around communication when services are provided," he said. "I agree with that part."

Gillingham said the city is a "service provider," and residents, though they are taxpayers "are also — in essence — our customers.

"The city needs to be in the business of improving the way it provides service and also the way we communicate those services," he said.

"I spoke with the authors of the report and committed to working with them as well to find ways the city can improve its communication."

Coun. Scott Gillingham brought the idea forward. METRO FILE



Murat Ates taking a look over the first volume of Life. Fire. Prose. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

Local author's travel tales are well-travelled

LITERATURE

Friends of Life.Fire.Prose. writer helped book go global

Meg Crane
For Metro

Winnipegger Murat Ates' book, Life. Fire. Prose., has made its way around (most of) the world.

Now the author is hoping to see the book make it to the least hospitable place on Earth.

The collection of travel stories became available in early December and has already been read on five continents, said Ates.

"It's not like I have a following of thousands of people, but the hundred people who do read my stuff are so supportive," said Ates. "It's special."

He said friends have ordered the book from other countries, and friends within Canada buy it to take along on their own journeys overseas.

Through his faraway and traveling friends, Life. Fire. Prose. has been to North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Ates' connections dry up in Australia and Antarctica.

"I don't know how I'm going to get that last one, but I'm going to try," said Ates. He has a few possibilities for Australia that he is actively pursuing.

> **It's not like I have a following of thousands of people, but the 100 people who do read my stuff are so supportive.**
> Author Murat Ates

Life. Fire. Prose. is just a side project to Ates' larger passion project. "I'm big on sharing appreciation to people while they can sort of enjoy it," said Ates.

That's why he decided to quit his job last year to write a collection of stories about Manitobans whom he finds courageous, inspiring or interesting.

Life. Fire. Prose. isn't entirely separate from that; in it are some of his own stories about the path that led him to being a full time writer.

He also said he's not done with Life. Fire. Prose. "I'm going to turn that into a serial publication sort of thing," said Ates. He still has travel stories to tell and expects to stumble upon more. "When I'm overseas and I meet someone who turns out to be a photographer who met JFK, I have to write about that," Ates said.

Life. Fire. Prose. is available at lifefireprose.etsy.com.

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ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Monsef on quest to improve democracy

Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef THE CANADIAN PRESS

Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef concedes Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system has its advantages.

And, whatever its flaws, she acknowledges it would be welcomed in fledgling democracies like Afghanistan, from whence she fled as a youngster.

But a mature democracy like Canada can do better, she says.

Monsef has been put in charge of delivering on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's pledge to make last fall's federal election the last conducted under FPTP.

The objective, she says, is to engage voters, improve turn out during elections and make all Canadians feel like their votes count.

That means "a stronger democratic system that allows for a higher voter turnout, that engages the voices of those who at the moment feel like they're ignored, those who feel like their issues don't matter and that their hopes and aspirations don't count," Monsef said in an interview.

"We have an opportunity, with this government as we approach the 150th anniversary, to strengthen and modernize our democratic institutions and bring them into the 21st century and that is the mandate that we got from Canadians."

Monsef has used the mandate argument to deflect Conservative demands for a Canada-wide referendum on whatever electoral reform is eventually recommended by a soon-to-be-constituted, special all-party committee.

In the interview, she continued to throw cold water on the referendum idea, but didn't absolutely rule it out.

"We need to consider different ways of voting, yes, but we also need to consider online voting, we also need to consider mandatory voting. There are some who suggest that we need to consider the voting age." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Rooftop rebels warned

Toronto Police Const. David Hopkinson has arrested his fair share of rooftoppers, a nickname for the daredevil photographers who climb atop skyscrapers to snap vertigo-inducing pictures of the world below. He expects it's just a matter of time before one of them in Canada dies. Last year, at least two deaths were linked to rooftopping. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Candidate's name in lights

A Feb. 11 Ontario byelection is starting to resemble a comedy skit. One candidate legally changed his name to Above Znoneofthe so he appears last on the Whitby-Oshawa ballot, inviting voters to literally pick "none of the above" in name and concept. But another candidate, directly above him on the ballot, is the leader of a party called "None of the Above." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jian Ghomeshi leaves a Toronto courthouse after the first day of his trial on Monday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defence zeroes in on inconsistencies

GHOMESHI'S TRIAL

Lawyer tests complainant's memory and credibility

A misremembered car, uncertainty over a kiss, who was "smitten" with whom, and the mystery of a set of hair extensions dominated the first day of the Jian Ghomeshi sexual assault trial.

Score one point for defence lawyer Marie Henein; zero for the prosecution. As the afternoon wore on, Henein raised one after another issue with the first complainant's testimony, nibbling around the edges of her credibility. Tuesday, Henein is expected to tackle the more substantive issue: Does her story of being punched three times in Ghomeshi's Riverdale home in 2003 hold water?

The woman, a struggling actor and part-time cocktail hostess seven years older than Ghomeshi at the time, said she met Ghomeshi while working for the caterer at a CBC Christmas party.

"He was flirtatious," the woman remembered.

She said he drove her to her car afterward, in a vehicle she described as a 1960s Disney movie car, a yellow Volkswagen Beetle. In the car, she told court he asked her to undo a few buttons of her blouse (she said no) and kissed her.

Then, she said, it was like a switch flipped. "There was almost a rage that wasn't there a second before." She told court he grabbed her long hair and pulled it back hard, holding it back for two to three seconds. "It was painful and sudden."

She said he then switched back to being a nice guy, and they chatted and he kissed her goodbye. She wondered if he simply did not know his own strength.

According to her story in court, she stayed in touch with Ghomeshi and went back to his home after another visit to a taping of his show. At one point she said they were standing up kissing and, without warning, "he grabs my hair again" and "pulls my head down and at the same time he is punching me in the head multiple times."

Before noon, defence lawyer Henein was at the podium asking questions, going over minute details with apparent success. The witness was flustered by the end, and under the rules of cross-examination she is not allowed to speak to the Crown, or anybody, about the case until Henein is finished and the prosecution, if so inclined, questions her again.

Henein noted that in her morning evidence (called "evidence in chief") the woman said she was kissing Ghomeshi in the car when he suddenly pulled her hair roughly. Henein noted that stories by The Toronto Star and CBC, based on interviews with her in the fall of 2014, did not reference kissing. Henein indicated that court will hear that the woman went on to tell police the kissing and hair pulling were "intertwined."

In response, the woman said that she "had the memory," she just "didn't put it out" when she gave interviews to the media. She said she was flustered and "high on nerves" when she spoke to CBC. The Toronto Star, she said, "twisted" her words. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANIMAL ABUSE

Dog on the mend after brutal attack

Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

A dog that was repeatedly kicked in his genitals until he urinated blood is expected to make a full recovery.

Annette Armitage with the Halifax-based Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) said the dog now being called King Edward was surrendered to animal control last week.

"We originally thought he had (testicular) cancer, but no — the vet determined he was probably booted repeatedly in the privates area," Armitage said Monday.

"They still have to express his penis on a regular basis because of the fluid buildup."

The dog's genital area is still very swollen and he occasionally winces while playing, but overall he's doing well. Armitage said cases like this highlight an issue that has always existed but has been brought to the forefront thanks to social media.

"I don't know if there's any more animal abuse than there ever was, but with the engagement of social media and with more public awareness, we're hearing about these more," she said.

Armitage said whoever surrendered the dog told animal control he was a stray. Although they'd like to find and charge the person who abused King Edward, she said, statistics aren't on their side.

"If it was possible to charge somebody that would be great but we know our province and our court system with animal charges is very rare," she said. "There have only been two lifetime bans in Nova Scotia for owning an animal."

Due to the nature of King Edward's injuries he's still being fostered with a veterinarian. When he no longer requires regular vet care he'll go to a foster home before being put up for adoption through ARC.

"This little guy … you would think he would be terrified and distrustful of humans, but he loves everyone," she said.

"I want to put a plea," said Armitage. "I think ... it's important to tell people if you don't want your dog, and if you feel you're going to (abuse it) please contact a rescue, contact a vet."

King Edward was believed to have been kicked repeatedly in his genitals before being surrendered to animal control last week. HANDOUT

IN BRIEF

UN declares 'official beginning' of Syria talks
The UN special envoy for Syria announced the official start of peace talks Monday between the Syrian government and opposition leaders, hoping to keep a wobbly process alive and compel world powers who helped set the stage for the talks to do more to bring about a ceasefire in a five-year war. Staffan di Mistura said the mere arrival of a delegation from the main Syrian opposition group, the High Negotiations Committee, at the UN offices in Geneva was enough to allow him to declare the talks formally open. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL-victims advocate, pontiff among Nobel Peace nominees
Nadia Murad, a woman who champions the rights of rape victims of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is among the candidates for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize, as the nomination window was set to close Monday. Pope Francis and the Afghan women's cycling team are also nominated. The Norwegian Nobel Committee typically receives more than 200 nominations for the prize, and keeps candidates secret for 50 years.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of young migrants unaccounted for
Authorities dealing with Europe's migrant crisis have lost track of about 10,000 unaccompanied children amid fears that organized crime gangs are beginning to exploit the vulnerable youngsters, a senior official at the European Union's police agency said Monday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei lies face down on the beach on the Greek island of Lesbos. Weiwei has recreated the famous image of three-year-old Syrian Alan Kurdi, who drowned in Turkey last year, by staging a photo of himself lying along the Greek shoreline. ROHIT CHAWLA/INDIA TODAY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Artist stages photo of drowned Syrian boy

REFUGEE CRISIS

Chinese activist faces backlash over recreation of Kurdi image

The pose is hauntingly familiar — face down, arms extended, lifeless.

Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei has recreated the image of drowned Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi, who put a face to the Syrian refugee crisis when his body washed ashore in Greece last year.

Taken on a pebbled beach on the Greek island of Lesbos last week, Ai's photo is said to be "a tribute" to Kurdi.

"Ai Weiwei believes that artists don't have to be more political, they just have to be more human," India Today, which took the image as part of the magazine's Art Awards 2016 International Spotlight, said in a statement.

Photographer Rohit Chawla snapped the photo of the artist in Lesbos, where Ai is working on a memorial to the refugees "in order to highlight their plight and spread the message of peace, brotherhood and trust."

Ai Weiwei TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Like much of Ai's work, the image garnered mixed reactions. Some lauded it as "powerful" and thanked the artist for "keeping alive the memory of Alan Kurdi."

Kurdi drowned alongside his brother and mother last September while the family attempted to make the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Greece.

The image of Kurdi's lifeless body caused shock and grief among people around the world and pushed governments to address the plight of the refugees.

Ai has been posting images and videos online of many refugees arriving in Lesbos, including one in which he is holding up a sign that reads, "Safe Passage." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ZIKA VIRUS

Outbreak of defects a threat, says WHO

An outbreak of birth defects and neurologic disorders linked to the Zika virus meets the criteria for a global health emergency, the World Health Organization said Monday.

WHO director-general Dr. Margaret Chan made the declaration following an emergency committee meeting held earlier in the day.

This is only the fourth time since 2009 that the UN health agency has declared a "public health emergency of international concern" under the International Health Regulations, with previous declarations made for H1N1, polio, and Ebola.

"After a review of the evidence, the committee advised that the clusters of microcephaly and other neurological complications constitute an extraordinary event and a public health threat to other parts of the world," said Chan, who accepted the recommendations of an expert panel.

Dr. David Heymann, chairman of the committee, clarified that the emergency is not being called over Zika specifically, but the cluster of neurologic disorders currently being linked to the virus, which lacks a vaccine or effective treatment.

The virus is spread by a day-biting mosquito called the Aedes aegypti, which can be found in every country in the Americas except Canada and continental Chile. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health authorities have issued a global alert against the **Aedes aegypti mosquito.** MARVIN RECINOS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SOUTH AFRICA

Intensifying drought hits national park's wildlife population

Hippos in South Africa's biggest wildlife park are increasingly grazing during the day rather than staying in rivers and pools as usual, a sign of an intensifying drought expected to kill some animals in the weeks ahead.

However, officials in Kruger National Park described the extremely dry period as a natural way of regulating wildlife populations. And while the park's management makes water available to animals in some parts of the park, they don't plan any major intervention to try to save animals from a drought afflicting southern Africa.

> "You end up with a stronger genetic pool in the end."
> Izak Smit, national parks service ecologist

Buffalos are also expected to suffer heavily if substantial rains don't arrive soon, according to authorities in Kruger park, which borders Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Rainfall in Kruger is 40 to 50 per cent of the average for this time of year.

Park officials said lions and some other predators should benefit from the drought by taking advantage of weakened prey.

"You've got winners and you've got losers. This is nature's regulatory thing," said Izak Smit, an ecologist for the national parks service.

Hippos are in particular trouble because they can't graze as widely as other animals and are very territorial, always returning to the same spot, he said. Hippos, which tend to graze by night and stay in water by day, have been seen grazing during the daytime more often in Kruger as they struggle to find food, according to Smit.

A drought in the early 1990s reduced Kruger's buffalo population by more than half to about 14,000, but the buffalo population has since rebounded to more than 40,000, according to park data.

"You end up with a stronger genetic pool in the end, with the animals surviving these dry periods," Smit said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo stand on a ridge next to a watering hole in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Buffalos are expected to suffer if substantial rains don't arrive soon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Canadians hoard cash

MARKETS

Investors have $75 billion in reserves, CIBC study finds

Canadians are holding a record $75 billion in extra cash and continue to sock away money at a rate not seen in more than four years, according to a new report from CIBC World Markets.

Normally that extra money would be invested in equities, but the study found that nervousness over volatility in the markets has many Canadians reluctant to take the plunge.

According to the study, excess cash reserves held by Canadians have risen notably since the 2008 financial crisis.

In the past year alone, cash positions are estimated to have risen more than 11 per cent — the fastest pace since early 2012 — reaching $75 billion as of December 2015.

That figure represented almost 10 per cent of the total value of overall personal liquid assets in Canada.

"We are currently witnessing the creation of personal cash buffers larger than at any other time on record," said Benjamin Tal, deputy chief economist at CIBC World Markets and a co-author of the report.

"Consistent with past behaviour, Canadian investors have used current market volatility as an excuse to let cash pile up in their chequing and savings accounts," Tal said.

The report finds that all Canadians, young and old alike, are making cash a bigger part of their portfolios.

"But, strikingly, those under 35 — the farthest away from retirement — are holding twice as much cash as those over the age of 65, about 33 per cent versus 15 per cent," CIBC said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Corus launching live events division

Corus Entertainment says it's expanding in the live events business, starting with a two-day country music in Kitchener, Ont., in July that's associated with its CMT specialty TV channel. Future Corus Live events will be built around its brands for kids, families and women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 71.79¢ (+0.39¢)

TSX 12,674.37 (–147.76)

OIL $31.62 US (–$2)

GOLD $1,128 US (+$11.60)

NATURAL GAS: $2.152 US (–14.6¢)
DOW JONES: 16,449.18 (–17.12)

A hen in a Canadian cage-free barn. Enough farmers have to shift to the more animal-friendly practice before they can supply eggs to the roughly 4,800 Tim Hortons locations in Canada and the U.S. COURTESY WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RESTAURANTS

Big chains hatch cage-free eggs plan

The parent company of Tim Hortons and Burger King announced Monday it is committed to serving cage-free eggs in Canada, the United States and Mexico by 2025.

Restaurant Brands International joins a growing list of restaurants that have promised to dish up eggs only from hens that have not been confined to cages as pressure from customers for ethically-sourced food ramps up.

"Canadians and consumers around the world aren't OK with hens being crammed into tiny cages for their entire lives," said Sayara Thurston, campaign manager with the Canadian wing of Humane Society International, which has worked with dozens of brands to help them create similar goals.

Denny's, for example, has promised its U.S. restaurants will serve only cage-free eggs by 2026, McDonald's has committed to doing the same at its Canadian and American locations by 2025, and Starbucks plans to meet that goal by 2020.

Thurston said it takes so long to meet these targets because the farmers who supply the eggs need time to implement cage-free systems. "We understand that change can't happen overnight," she said.

Enough farmers have to shift to the more animal-friendly practice to supply the roughly 4,800 Tim Hortons locations in Canada and the U.S.

> **We understand that change can't happen overnight.**
> Sayara Thurston

Despite the nine-year timeline, Humane Society International hopes Tim Hortons and Burger King will be able to achieve their goal before 2025, Thurston said.

But already, Burger King is poised to miss one of its previous goals. The fast-food chain announced in 2012 that it would be using only cage-free eggs in the United States by 2017. That goal has now been extended to 2025, said Thurston, lumped in with the company's Canadian and Mexican locations.

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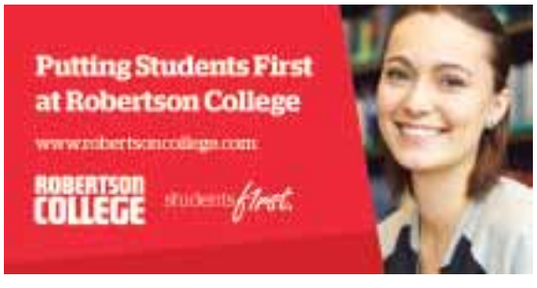

BROADBAND

Home Internet service arriving in Cuba

Cuba announced Sunday night that it is launching broadband Internet service in two Havana neighbourhoods as a pilot project aimed at bringing home access to one of the world's least connected nations.

State telecommunications company ETECSA said it would allow Cubans in Old Havana, the colonial centre that is one of the island's main tourist attractions, to order service through fibre optic connections operated with Chinese telecom operator Huawei.

Odalys Rodriguez del Toro, ETECSA director for Havana, told state media that the government would also begin allowing cafés, bars and restaurants to begin ordering broadband service.

CONNECTIONS

Important milestone

Any fibre-optic home connections would be an important milestone in Cuba.

Broadband home service is currently legal only for diplomats and employees of foreign companies who pay hundreds of dollars a month for Internet links that are a fraction of the average speed in other countries.

Some Cuban citizens have dial-up home service or restricted mobile phone connections that allow access only to state-run email.

Del Toro offered no timeline for the pilot project or roll-out of broader access and said prices would be announced in the future.

General public access to broadband Internet began only last year, with the opening of dozens of public Wi-Fi spots that cost $2 an hour. That is about a tenth of the average monthly salary in Cuba.

Del Toro said ETECSA would open 30 more WiFi spots in Havana alone in 2016, which by itself would double the number of access points in Cuba. She did not say how many more were planned for other cities.

The United States has been pushing Cuba to show that it is improving conditions for its citizens as President Barack Obama loosens the half-century old U.S. trade embargo on Cuba.

U.S. Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler travelled to Havana this month to meet with Cuban officials about increasing Cuba's connections to the Internet. Last week, the FCC gave U.S. companies blanket permission to provide voice and data connections to Cuba, doing away the requirement for special FCC permission.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

EMMA TEITEL: ON HAPPINESS HOKUM

Provided that you know what it is, how do you gauge its presence? Is it measured best moment by moment, in individual bursts of elation or slowly, over a long period?

The Angus Reid Institute on Monday released the results of a survey quantifying Canadian happiness. The verdict? Of the roughly 1500 Canadian adults surveyed online in December, 16 per cent said they were "very happy," 18 per cent said they were "not too happy," and the majority — 63 per cent — said they were "pretty happy."

The prevailing result — "pretty happy" — is so Canadian it hurts; a glorified "I guess so," it suggests that most of us are either too modest to profess our happiness outright, or too polite to despair.

But the result, in true Canadian fashion, is also inherently sensible. It reveals a reluctance to measure in absolute terms a feeling that is forever hard to put your finger on. For starters, what is happiness, anyway? And provided that you know what it is, how do you gauge its presence?

Is it measured best moment by moment, in individual bursts of elation, or slowly, over a long period of time? If you're miserable in January but February is looking up (though it rarely is), are you officially happy, or is your new mood merely a sunny blip in an otherwise blue existence?

Happiness indexes are an increasingly popular way by which experts measure a nation's success.

Yet, despite the numerous challenges involved in measuring happiness we do it all the time. And we do it in droves.

Canadians aren't the only happy — or "pretty happy" — citizens on the planet. According to another recent study, by polling association WIN/Gallup International, Saudi Arabia is the third happiest nation in the world. And Libya — according to yet another happiness index — is the happiest country in Africa.

THE PICTURE OF HAPPINESS? Surveys showing high rates of happiness in developing countries such as Libya (above), give Westerners a pass to ignore the world's problems, Emma Teitel writes. KARIM MOSTAFA /ISTOCK

The list goes on and on. Happiness surveys and their suspiciously positive results are now more pervasive in the international news cycle than personality quizzes in Cosmopolitan. But there may be some very unpleasant consequences to the abundance of these surveys circulating the globe — namely that policy analysts are beginning to take seriously survey results that are vague and possibly dubious.

For example, happiness indexes are an increasingly popular way by which experts measure a nation's success (as opposed to, say, looking at its GDP), but this method is inherently flawed. Why?

Mark D. White, chair of philosophy at City University of New York (in a paper on happiness indexes and public policy), writes: "Happiness is a notoriously difficult concept to define. Just like 'justice' or 'beauty,' happiness is a vague term that means different things to different people; as a consequence, even though everyone knows what it means in various situations, we would be hard-pressed to come up with a single definition that captures all those aspects for every person."

Happiness for Aristotle, for example, was "the whole aim and end of human existence." For Sarah McLachlan, "Happiness is like a cloud, if you stare at it long enough, it evaporates." For me, happiness is a large bag of Jalapeno Jack popcorn from Kernels. In sum: different strokes.

But there's a far greater danger (beyond imprecise definition) in humanity's apparent obsession with the Happiness Olympics — the danger of complacency. Happiness surveys, says White, may make "people in First World countries less sympathetic to people who actually need help."

For example, someone might conclude after hearing that Libya is a generally happy nation (perhaps even as happy as Canada) that the country doesn't require or deserve aid; that an admission of happiness by a country's population decreases the perceived severity of the country's problems. This danger doesn't merely apply to nations facing mass poverty or political unrest, but to nations like our own.

We know that depression is under-reported in Canada — and that suicide may be as well— so what is the purpose of a survey model that suggests to the wider world that things are looking up when in fact they aren't? The answer is simple: There is none.

Happiness surveys with positive results make for fun, fluffy stories that boost civic pride. But they also foster a culture of complacency and self-deception, in which we ignore our problems and pat ourselves on the back for no good reason. And that is pretty sad.

Emma Teitel is an award-winning national affairs columnist with the Toronto Star who writes about anything and everything. She got her start at Maclean's Magazine where she wrote frequently about women's issues, LGBT rights, and popular culture.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Day 1 of Ghomeshi trial: Wobbly witness memories vs. piranha

She's not called a "piranha" for nothing.

Marie Henein, the lawyer defending Jian Ghomeshi against four charges of sexual assault and one of choking, dominated the Toronto courtroom where his trial began on Monday.

We're used to hearing sexual assault cases dubbed "he said/she said." But this was "she said/she said." Henein calmly dissected away at the witness's statements made in media interviews, police interviews and emails over a year ago, and pecked, pecked, pecked at details until the cracks in memory and discrepancies with Monday's testimony showed.

It was lawyerly excellence, and exactly what keeps sexual assault victims off the stand.

There was the matter of whether the witness was wearing hair extensions in 2002 (an issue that took 15 minutes to sort out), and whether it was she or Ghomeshi who was "smitten" (her friend had given testimony that the witness was the keen one).

There was whether he bashed her head into the car window, or whether she and Ghomeshi were kissing when he pulled her hair the first time, a detail that appeared in her testimony Monday, but not in interviews with the media.

How could the witness remember Ghomeshi's yellow Volkswagen bug so vividly, Henein wondered, since Ghomeshi had not owned it at the time? And why had the witness agreed with police in 2014 that Ghomeshi yanked her head back against the car seat, if it was actually, as she testified Monday, back towards the car window?

"Where do you say, 'No, no, no, you've got it wrong.' Where is that?" Henein asked about the police transcript.

At the breaks, reporters gathered in the hallways to marvel at Henein's performance. One quipped she'd want Henein as her lawyer if she ever choked her husband. In Henein's hands, a straightforward account of events lost its way. It's hard to imagine a story that wouldn't.

But memory doesn't walk a single line. It's easy to believe that someone recalled details of an event at different times, as the witness said. And yet, a trial isn't about whether someone is believed, it's whether they're believed enough.

What matters is this: Will the witness's jumbled memories be enough to convince the judge there is reasonable doubt that the alleged assaults actually took place?

Against this standard, Day 1 feels like a decided win for Henein, and perhaps a warning against any sexual assault victim who would take the stand and face her.

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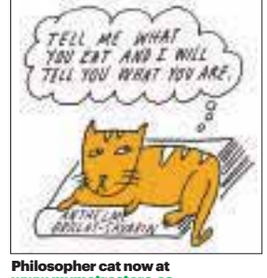

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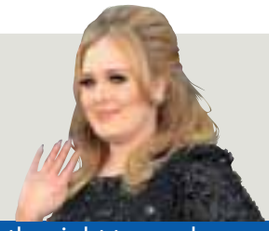


Adele denies Donald Trump the right to use her music

Yoga bent into shape

Is there a right or wrong way to practise yoga? It pops up a lot in headlines — beer yoga; bunny yoga; rage yoga; concerns about cultural appropriation of yoga at the University of Ottawa's Centre for Students with Disabilities. Metro talked to five instructors across Canada about how they got into yoga, what their practice means to them, and how they feel about teaching an Eastern tradition. Responses have been condensed. **EMINA GAMULIN/METRO CANADA**

COURTESY ROSLYN SUTHERLAND

Roslyn Sutherland, Serene Yoga Studio, Winnipeg

In my late 20s, early 30s, I had several surgeries and a couple of car accidents. I needed a way to get healthy. So I went back to yoga and I've been doing it ever since. That puts me close to 30 years of self-practice. Yoga speaks to the physical body, it speaks to the mind. It's given me tools so I can cope with my monkey mind. It's helped me emotionally when I'm feeling out of sorts or down. It might sound a little melodramatic, but it's almost been a lifesaver for me.

Coming from a people that have had this sort of thing (cultural appropriation) happen to them as I understand it — if you as an individual or organization enjoy something from a specific culture, and that culture is not your culture, I just believe you should pay homage to that culture.

Katrina Prescott, Kundalini yoga teacher, Vancouver

I didn't like yoga, I couldn't stand it. I was born and raised in Vancouver but I lived in New York at the time when the yoga craze started. It seemed like rich, white, thin, model women were doing it and it wasn't for me. I guess about three years ago I was going through a kind-of crisis. My friend who had been trying to get me to go to Kundalini yoga for a long time was like 'Let's just go.'

It is very challenging sometimes to go to a yoga studio and have a teacher that doesn't seem to be very conscious, for a lack of a better term. However, I am now shifted in the thinking that in yoga, if you're tuning into your own self, your own body, being in the moment, even for one moment ... We need that on this planet. Desperately.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

COURTESY BOBBY SINGH @FOHPHOTO

Suzanne Gracan, owner FitZonePLUS, Toronto

I was an athlete and I climbed mountains for fun, that was a weekend for me. In 2001 I had a fall; it was nothing related to sports whatsoever, and I couldn't walk for two years. It took me eight years to rehabilitate completely. During that time I went from being a very, very athletic, let's say size 10, to 365 pounds at my largest. I decided to try yoga again. Nobody was outright rude but there was just a sense of 'Oh my God, what am I going to do with this person?'

Sixty per cent of my clients are plus sized, 40 per cent are just average-type people. So when you're in a class you don't have to worry about, 'Is my fat roll hanging out? Am I wearing the right clothes?' (Yoga) is different things to different people, but because of this image of what it is — and it's an image of inaccessibility — most people will never try it.

Jolene D'entremont, owner Yoga ON, Halifax

The first access I had to yoga was a black and white book called The 28 Days of Yoga. Back in the day, access to yoga, especially in Halifax, was limited. I got pregnant and afterwards experienced quite a bit of postpartum depression and found an Ashtanga class that I would go to once a week. I found that after the classes I would come out and feel like the whole world had opened up.

I now do goalie camps for elite goalies who are going to the NHL. More people practising some sort of mindfulness practice can only be good.

COURTESY HOLISTIC FAMILY TRAVELS

Gourav Verma, co-owner Gyan Yoga, Toronto

I was in the school yoga team (in New Delhi) and we entered a few yoga competitions and I won a few of them. This yoga was mainly based on yoga poses, let's call it a kind of exercise. I wanted to learn more, and luckily the mountains were pretty close. So I went over there and I learned it there, the spiritual part of it. It doesn't come just right away, it takes some time.

The Hindu religion and yoga, you can keep them separate. Nowhere in yoga books does it say only Indian people are entitled to teach this thing. Anyone who learns even just the physical aspect of it can teach it, why not? It's an amazing thing. People love it. But if they don't understand the spiritual knowledge, at least don't spread the false knowledge. I don't think they're stealing anything, but I don't know, maybe in a hundred years — everything changes — that would be too much (laughs).

COURTESY GYAN YOGA

YuMee Chung in The Eagle Has Landed pose. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ease into yoga with simple seated pose

FITNESS

Perch on the edge of a sofa to get started

YuMee Chung
For Metro Canada

Are you a newcomer to yoga? Try this fledgling version of a challenging standing balance called Eagle Pose (or Garudasana in the language of yoga). You'll learn how to build your pose from the ground up by perching it on a couch and focusing on the subtle actions of the arms, shoulders and upper back.

We're calling this one The Eagle Has Landed. It's a great way to spread your wings and get your yoga practice off the ground without leaving the comfort of your living room.

The Eagle Has Landed

1. Begin seated on the edge of your couch with a long spine and feet placed side-by-side below and slightly behind the knees.

2. To create your eagle legs, pick up the right leg and aim to double-wrap it around the left by crossing right thigh over and hooking the top of that foot behind your lower left calf. If the hook of the foot proves to be elusive, choose to simply cross the right thigh over left and nestle the foot beside the lower left calf with toes pointing down. Hug the legs together snugly regardless of the leg variation you choose.

3. Now, create eagle arms by placing your right elbow below the left elbow and twining the arms together until the right-side fingers meet the left palm. If the hands do not meet easily, just reach each hand towards its opposite shoulder blade for a compact self-hug.

4. To make the upper-body actions more dynamic, thrust the elbows towards the wall directly in front of you; lift your arms as a unit; move the hands away from the face (if they are touching); and ease the shoulders away from your earlobes. Imagine you are using the breath to pry the shoulder blades apart and unfold a pair of eagle wings. Breathe here for five breaths.

5. Finish by unwinding the arms and legs and taking a moment to feel the impact of the pose on your nervous system before repeating the process on the second side.

Eagle eyes

The phrase "eagle eyes" describes the ability to see or observe keenly. In yoga circles, the practice of consciously placing the gaze on a specific focal point while meditating or moving through yoga postures is called drishti. It is said that where the eyes go, the mind follows, and so the practice of focusing the gaze is a technique for refining the mind's ability to concentrate. In eagle pose, we gaze softly beyond the tip of the nose, to an unmoving point on the horizon, to find composure and aid balance.

YuMee Chung is a recovering lawyer who teaches yoga in Toronto. She is on the faculty of a number of yoga teacher training programs and leads international yoga retreats. Learn more about her at padmani.com

HEALTH BRIEF

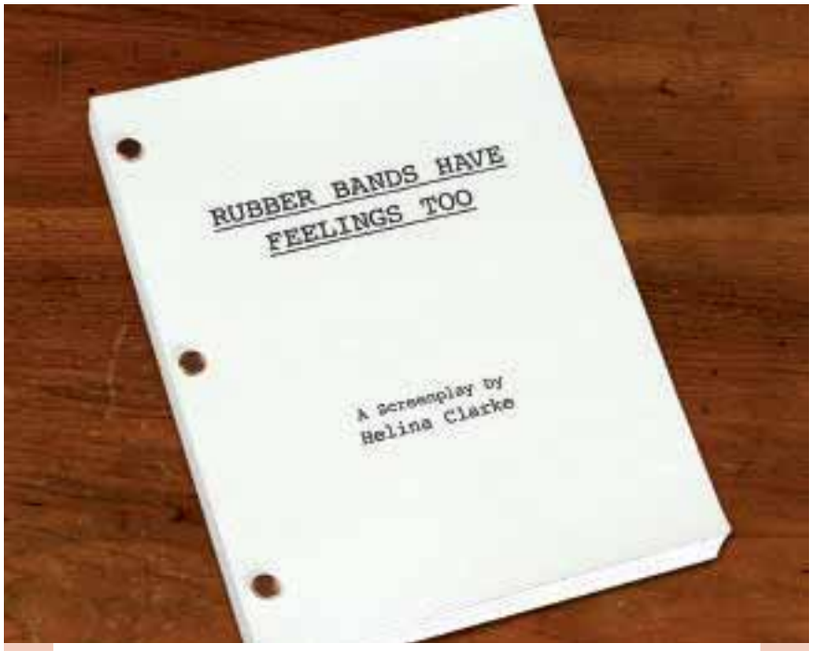
Exposure to junk food ads affects kids' health: Study

New analysis from the University of Liverpool, U.K., has added to the growing body of evidence that suggests junk food advertising really does lead children to eat more.

The team found that although food advertising didn't increase food consumption in adults, it did significantly increase food consumption in children, with both television and Internet having an equally powerful effect.

Commenting on the significance of the results, which were published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, lead author Dr Emma Boyland said: "Food advertising doesn't just affect brand preference — it drives consumption. Given that almost all children in Westernized societies are exposed to large amounts of unhealthy food advertising on a daily basis this is a real concern.

Based on these findings, Dr. Boyland recommends that children's exposure to food advertising should be reduced. AFP



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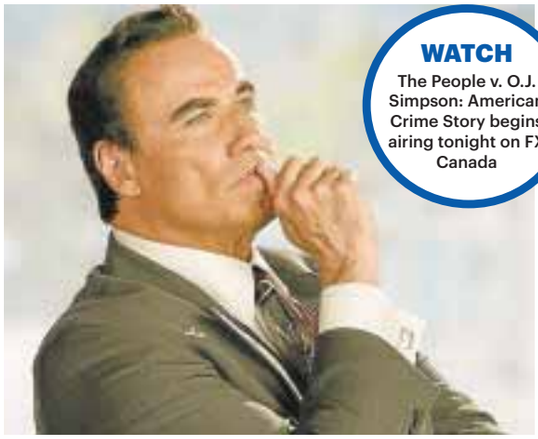
REMEMBERING THE O.J. TRIAL

O.J. Simpson's trial for the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Lyle Goldman stretched from November 1994 to October 1995 and has been described as the most publicized trial in American history. What were the stars of The People v. O.J. Simpson doing at the time? TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



WATCH
The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story begins airing tonight on FX Canada

1 John Travolta (Robert Shapiro)

"I was in the middle of a Pulp Fiction resurrection," says Travolta, who plays Simpson's defence lawyer. "I had a new career. I was happy." Pulp Fiction had just won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival as the trial began. Travolta's father, who was a football coach, was obsessed with the case. "So I had my dad at the sofa watching every second of it, from the car chase on."

2 Cuba Gooding Jr. (O.J. Simpson)

Gooding was shooting As Good as it Gets with Jack Nicholson, but he was about to achieve fame for shouting "Show me the money!" as an NFL football player in Cameron Crowe's Jerry Maguire.

3 Sarah Paulson (Marcia Clark)

Paulson had just landed her first regular TV gig — as a ghost — on the horror series American Gothic. She remembers watching the White Bronco chase. "I was 19, I think. I was at my friend's house in Brooklyn. We were watching some other show and this damn Bronco thing — we knew O.J. from the Naked Gun movies."

4 Courtney B. Vance (Johnnie Cochran)

Vance was in Toronto shooting the TV movie The Boys Next Door with Scandal star Tony Goldwyn when the verdict came down. "I cheered," Vance told a reporter. Goldwyn screamed "No!" Their reactions, split across racial lines, were happening in homes and offices across North America.

5 David Schwimmer (Robert Kardashian)

"I was living in L.A., so I was very aware of the tension here," says Schwimmer, whose run on Friends began just as the O.J. trial got underway. "You could feel it. It was palpable in the city. And then this crazy thing of a career break of a lifetime happened."

FOOTBALL

Lead up to Superbowl boasts lots of big acts

The Super Bowl takes place a week before the Grammys, but the big game is rivaling the awards shows with a plethora of live concerts and on-site musicians, from the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Metallica to Pharrell and Skrillex.

Alicia Keys, OneRepublic and the Band Perry will perform at concerts on Saturday, Friday and Thursday, respectively. Dave Matthews Band will take the stage Thursday, Nick Jonas will perform at the annual ESPN The Party event on Friday, while Avicii, Elle King and Travis Scott will perform at a Rolling Stone magazine party Saturday.

Though Super Bowl 50 will be held at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., most of the concerts and parties will take place in San Francisco. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pharrell. GETTY IMAGES

MUSIC BRIEF

Grease is the word on the iTunes chart

While Grease Live! (Music From the Television Event sits in fifth place on the February 1 iTunes chart, it's Jordan Fisher's performance of Those Magic Changes that's the soundtrack's most in-demand single.

Prior to the FOX TV broadcast, Alabama-born Fisher had recurring roles on family dramas The Secret Life of the American Teenager and Liv and Maddie, and a part in PlayStation 4 horror game Until Dawn. The album's placing puts it behind LPs from Rihanna, Kevin Gates, Adele and Sia. AFP

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Award shows need reaction shots

THE SHOW: Screen Actors Guild Awards (Global)
THE MOMENT: The Reaction Shots

Amy Poehler and Tina Fey give a heartfelt introduction to lifetime achievement honoree Carol Burnett, which includes Fey's line, "Carol was the boss. We realized we could get paid to make comedy with our friends —- and also be their boss."

Then Burnett describes how CBS honchos tried to talk her out of doing her landmark Carol Burnett Show: "'All the comedy/variety shows are hosted by men,'" Burnett quotes them.

"'It's really not for a gal. Comedy/variety is a man's game.'"

She shakes her head no. The audience applauds.

Or at least, I'm pretty sure they applaud.

Throughout these speeches, it sounds like the crowd is rooting for and relating to what Fey, Poehler and Burnett are saying.

But we at home have to imagine that, because the director doesn't cut to any reaction shots.

To me, reaction shots are the best part of an awards show: watching people who are paid to have calculated reactions, have uncalculated ones.

Without them, the speeches feel airless. The unscripted reactions are what we talk about the next day. They become the memes.

Yeah, some of them are gaffes. But I'm not talking about those. I'm talking about the moments of connection (which are rare, but can happen).

We watch films and TV shows because we're interested in seeing how other people experience being alive. We watch awards shows to further humanize the people who do that for us.

Witnessing spontaneous reactions is a big part of that.

Without them, it's just noise.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Carol Burnett accepts her lifetime achievement award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Carolina Panthers will hang on for a 24-20 win over the Denver Broncos, according to EA's Madden NFL 16 Super Bowl prediction

5 PLAYERS TO WATCH IN THE 2ND HALF OF THE NHL SEASON

Big Buff, whose days as a Jet are rumoured to be numbered, is among the stars you should keep tabs on in the leadup to the post-season.

1 Patrick Kane

The NHL's leading scorer (30 goals and 43 assists for 73 points) has been the best player on the ice. Kane should shatter the 100-point mark as the Chicago Blackhawks eye a fourth Stanley Cup in seven years.

2 Dustin Byfuglien

Arguably the player most likely to be dealt before the Feb. 29 trade deadline, the Winnipeg Jets defenceman is a one-of-a-kind player. Byfuglien is a six-foot-five, 260-pound physical force who can hit like a freight train, skate smoothly and contribute offensively. Whoever adds him will pay a premium rental price but will get a difference-maker.

3 Erik Karlsson

The Senators captain is on pace for 85 points, which would be the most for a defenceman since Brian Leetch of the Rangers in 1995-96. Karlsson is easy to keep an eye on because he plays almost 29 minutes a game. He's dominant on the power play, where he's put up 18 of his 52 points, good for fourth in the league. If coach Dave Cameron continues to let his captain loose, Karlsson could surpass Leetch and challenge for his third Norris Trophy.

4 Tyler Seguin

The best centre on the NHL's most offensively dynamic team, Seguin is a superstar who just turned 24. The Dallas Stars' top-line combo of Seguin and Jamie Benn will keep torturing Central Division rivals down the stretch.

5 Braden Holtby

The Washington Capitals' workhorse goaltender already has 30 wins in 39 games, so Martin Brodeur's single-season record of 48 is in play. Holtby is a throwback, an aggressive goaltender who plays the puck like a skater, so the Capitals' breakout gets a boost from him, too. It's only a matter of time until he scores a goal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

NHL

McDavid ready to resume rookie year

Connor McDavid's broken clavicle is healed and his fractured rookie season resumes Tuesday night against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"He is ready to go," Edmonton Oilers head coach Todd McLellan announced Monday after McDavid skated in practice, centring a line between Jordan Eberle and Benoit Pouliot.

The 19-year-old rookie phenom will play his first game since he piled into the boards against the Philadelphia Flyers on Nov. 3.

> **"I'm excited. It feels like my first game all over again.**
> Connor McDavid

He has missed 37 games.

McDavid has five goals and 12 points in 13 games. His five goals were on 24 shots, for a team leading 20.8 scoring percentage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Hart reveals he has cancer

Canadian professional wrestler Bret Hart says he has prostate cancer and will undergo surgery "in the next few days."

Posting on his verified Instagram account, the Calgary-born grappler known as "The Hitman" said he was about to face his "toughest battle."

The 58-year-old suffered a significant stroke in 2002 that left him partially paralyzed, but made a successful recovery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snedeker's score holds up at Farmers Insurance Open

Brandt Snedeker wound up winning the Farmers Insurance Open on Monday without hitting a shot.

Snedeker closed with a 3-under 69 in nasty wind and rain on Sunday.

Turns out the wind was just as bad on Monday when the final round resumed — perhaps even worse considering the change in direction — and no one could top Snedeker's score of 6-under 282. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raps' Casey named coach of the month

Toronto Raptors head coach Dwane Casey has been named the NBA Eastern Conference coach of the month.

The Raptors finished January with a 12-2 record, including a franchise-best 11-game winning streak to close out the month.

Toronto held opponents to an average of 97.4 points over the month, the third-lowest total in the league. They were third in the conference offensively with an average of 105.6 points.

Casey holds the franchise record for coaching victories with 186 and has a .518 (186-173) winning percentage in five seasons with Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

11.7

The Raptors' average margin of victory, in points, during their current 11-game winning streak.

John Scott gets into a friendly tussle with Patrick Kane of the Blackhawks, during the all-star semifinal in Nashville on Monday.
MARK ZALESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IceCaps cooler than ever, thanks to Scott

HOCKEY

Journeyman's unlikely all-star nod raises AHL club's profile

John Scott's cross-continent journey has turned into an unexpected boon for the St. John's IceCaps.

The American Hockey League franchise has seen a substantial uptick in social media attention and media requests thanks to Scott's highly publicized appearance at the NHL all-star game.

"It's been pretty crazy, I dare say pretty unprecedented, for our team to get this much play," said IceCaps director of communications David Salter.

He said the attention around Scott has put the IceCaps, and the city of St. John's, on the map for those who may have been previously unfamiliar with the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador. Salter knew a "storm" was coming when Scott, the fans' ironic choice to captain one of four all-star teams, was traded from the Arizona Coyotes to Montreal in mid-January, then promptly assigned to St. John's. Like many, he wondered if the NHL was simply trying to prevent the player who scored five goals in 285 career NHL games from playing in the showcase event.

"It was a story no matter what happened," Salter said. The hype grew when Scott stole the show Sunday in Nashville, earning all-star MVP honours. The IceCaps' Twitter account was swamped with fans requesting they change their handle to the St. John Scott IceCaps. The team finally relented, posting "OK, you win."

> **It's been pretty crazy, I dare say pretty unprecedented, for our team to get this much play.**
> St. John's IceCaps director of communications David Salter.

Salter said demand for T-shirts and jerseys has increased, while American sports broadcasting giant ESPN is among those flooding the team with media requests.

Scott has played in only two home games for St. John's thus far, but Salter said fans are clamouring to see him. It could be a boost in the stands for St. John's, which averages nearly 6,000 fans per game, 11th-best in the AHL.

"People have quickly adopted him here," Salter said. The surge in attention has also been positive for Scott, who is playing on his fourth consecutive one-year contract.

He hoped his unlikely all-star experience might open a few doors, and it appears it has. Aside from book and movie offers fans also took to social media Monday, suggesting the struggling Canadiens call up the enforcer.

"John's life has definitely changed in the past month," Hankinson said by email.
THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOVIE DEAL?

John Scott, the enforcer who became a cause célèbre on his way to being named a most improbable NHL all-star game MVP on Sunday, reportedly is considering offers for the inevitable: A movie based on his adventures.

On Monday, TSN quoted agent Ben Hankinson as saying Scott will "have some different routes" available for "books and even a potential movie" after his weekend in Nashville, where he scored two goals to help win the three-on-three tournament.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CURLING

Howard calls on substitute Spencer at Ontario Tankard

Veteran skip Glenn Howard called on Adam Spencer as a substitute early in the curling season when regular teammate Wayne Middaugh was unavailable due to work commitments.

Spencer is needed once again, and this time he'll be asked to help get Howard's team back to the Tim Hortons Brier.

With Middaugh out indefinitely after breaking his leg on the ski slopes, Spencer filled in for the vice-skip Monday at the Ontario Tankard. He threw second stones in a 7-5 victory over Michael McLean at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre.

"My approach is just keep my mouth shut, speak when spoken to and hopefully make a pile of shots," Spencer said with a chuckle.

He slotted into the lineup nicely in the opener of the provincial championship on a team that includes Richard Hart and Howard's son, Scott, at lead.

Spencer, who normally plays with skip Brent Ross in nearby Guelph, Ont., wore Middaugh's white and red No. 2 jersey. He's one of five substitute players available this week in the event a player is injured or unavailable. "I thought we all played great and I thought Adam played terrific," Howard said. "It was almost like it was seamless and that's what you're hoping for."

The 53-year-old skip from Penetanguishene, Ont., is not guaranteed to have Spencer in the lineup for the rest of the competition. In fact, he has to formally apply to use him before each game.

> **My approach is just keep my mouth shut, speak when spoken to and hopefully make a pile of shots.**
> Adam Spencer

Technically, Spencer goes back into the players' pool after each draw and any other team could put in a bid for his services if needed. But chances are good that he'll be wearing the Middaugh jersey throughout the week.

Spencer played two bonspiels with the Howard team in September as Middaugh wrapped up his duties as general manager of the Port Carling Golf & Country Club. He also played a full season with Scott Howard on a different team a few years ago.

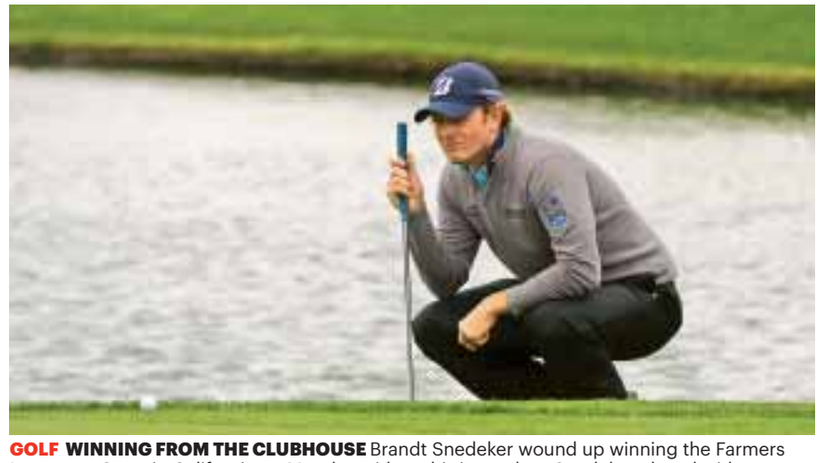
"We know him, terrific guy, great curler and the perfect fit for our team," Glenn Howard said. "It couldn't have worked out any better."

Middaugh needed surgery to repair a broken left tibia and is out for the season. Howard said he thought his longtime friend and teammate was joking around when he got the phone call in early January.

"He sent a picture and said, 'Hey skipper, look at my leg,'" Howard recalled. "He actually had the X-ray. I started laughing and said, 'Ha ha, funny guy.' He said, 'No, no, that's my leg.'

"Oh my God. It was unfortunate." Toronto skips John Epping and Mike Harris are two of the other contenders in the 11-team field at the Feb. 1-7 event. Epping opened with an 8-1 rout of Ian Dickie and Harris pulled out a 5-4 victory over Dayna Deruelle.

The Tankard winner will represent Team Ontario at the Tim Hortons Brier, March 5 to 13 in Ottawa. Howard is a four-time Brier champion and is itching to get back for the first time since 2013.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



GOLF WINNING FROM THE CLUBHOUSE Brandt Snedeker wound up winning the Farmers Insurance Open in California on Monday without hitting a shot. Snedeker closed with a 3-under 69 in nasty wind and rain on Sunday. There was some question whether his lead would hold when the final round was suspended because of the conditions. Turns out the wind was just as bad and no one could top his score of 6-under 282. PHOTO CREDIT IN SMALL CAPS

IN BRIEF

Guardiola named next Manchester City manager
Pep Guardiola will take over as manager of Manchester City on a three-year contract starting next season, with the Premier League club finally capturing soccer's most sought-after coach four years after failing to land him.

City made the announcement Monday, minutes after current manager Manuel Pellegrini ended a news conference by saying he would be leaving the club at the end of the season. City is already the richest club in English soccer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Browns' fans take online break from Manziel antics
Floating on an inflatable swan was one thing.

Being hunted by a police helicopter was too much. Johnny Manziel's hijinks have driven some fans of the Cleveland Browns to the edge, and they are sacking the headline-grabbing quarterback for a month — or maybe longer.

Tired of Manziel's off-field transgressions, the latest being a possible assault of his ex-girlfriend over the weekend in Texas, fans have started a "Johnny Free February" movement on Twitter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Chili Mac

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This dish combines two comforting classics — mac and cheese and chili — to make one great, satisfying dish. All the melted cheese on top doesn't hurt either.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes
Serves 4

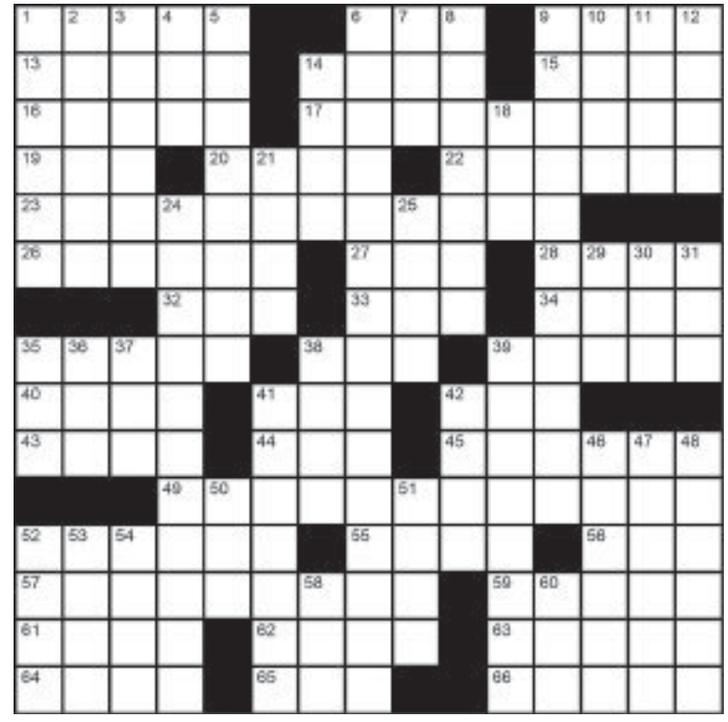
Ingredients
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red, yellow or orange pepper, chopped
- 2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 28-oz can of tomatoes
- 19-oz can of kidney beans
- 1 cup whole wheat macaroni
- 1 cup or so of grated cheddar cheese

Directions
1. In a large pot or Dutch oven, brown your meat. Drain excess fat from the pot. Add onions, garlic and peppers and stir. Sauté until the vegetables begin to soften. Add spices, salt and pepper and stir. Let spices cook for a couple of minutes.
2. Drain the beans and add them to the pot. Do not drain the tomatoes; you'll want to use the juice. With the back of a wooden spoon, break up the tomatoes. Now stir in the dried pasta. Bring the pot to a simmer and let everything bubble away for about 15 minutes. Taste to check the seasoning.
3. Serve each bowl with a generous handful of grated cheese.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Improperly carry out
6. Basilica bench
9. Cars member Mr. Ocasek's
13. Machu Picchu inhabitant
14. Intro-to-drawing class: wd. + Roman Numeral
15. "_ _ in the Life" by The Beatles
16. Bea Arthur character
17. Reasons for some helicopter rescue missions
19. NBA's Magic team, on scoreboards
20. Crease
22. Snappy reply
23. Auxiliary
26. Gain
27. Excessively
28. Parrot
32. 'Electron' suffix
33. Holiday _ _
34. Present
35. Extra wheel
38. Band-Aid and Xerox, et al.
39. Drum kit part
40. Toronto CFL-er
41. Charge
42. School org.
43. Rover's greeting!
44. Tolkien creature
45. Fix the scarf
49. February 2nd: If the little critter sees his shadow on Groundhog Day, that means there will be how much extra of winter weather?: 3 wds.
52. "Sheesh!": 2 wds.
55. Spydom, _ Hari
56. Stir-fry pan
57. Stanley Park city
59. Kindled again
61. _ Dinesen (Pen name of Out of Africa writer Karen Blixen)
62. Plant stem
63. Journeys
64. Thieving flappers
65. Long river in Scotland
66. Give the go ahead: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Champagne/orange juice drink
2. Stuck's three-word saying finisher
3. Create, like Michelangelo
4. Kirk, to Michael
5. Pie portion: 2 wds.
6. "Schitt's Creek" on CBC, as an example of one: 2 wds.
7. Wee outerspace inhabitants
8. Famous groundhog of Canada, _ Willie
9. White-toothed creature in "Groundhog" by Chilliwack
10. Prefix with 'logical'
11. Emily the Canadian painter
12. Method, for short
14. Mr. Sandler of ha-has
18. Baltic, for one
21. Poetic nightfalls
24. Menswear department purchase: 3 wds.
25. Negative responses, in French
29. Doubled dance
30. Vertical's opp.
31. Have payments
35. Carpentry tool
36. In favour
37. In times past
38. Condition
39. Jon and Rod
41. Controversial onmounted-horse with hounds countryside adventure
42. Fashionably 'ready'
46. "What Kind of Fool Am I" by Anthony _ _
47. Dixie Cups hit in 1965: 2 wds.
48. "How very, very naughty!"
50. Prefix with 'metric'
51. Uncommon
52. Roman love poet
53. _ _ good time (Enjoys)
54. Chew at
58. U.S. gov. radio service
60. Historic time

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If you allow negative thoughts to take over today then negative outcomes will follow. If, however, you make an effort to keep a positive mindset, things should turn out all right. Your mind creates your reality.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you're unhappy about something then speak up — but emphasize the positive. Don't get into the mindset of thinking the world is a bad place — it isn't, it's just your attitude.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Just because someone calls themselves an "expert" does not mean you should accept what they say at face value. Checks the facts for yourself and draw your own conclusions.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There are times when your suspicions are well founded. The planets warn you are right to be doubtful. It's not a good time to commit yourself to anything you can't get out of later.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you jump to conclusions today you could find out later that you've leapt too far. The planets warn that what you think you see and what is actually there may be two entirely different things.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Give your brain a rest. If you're typical of your sign your mind is always on the go; that's not always a good thing. Even a Virgo needs some down time. Make this a relaxed day.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's unlikely that you'll be thinking clearly today and if you let your fears get the better of you it could have costly implications. If someone says you need to act fast or miss out altogether you should be suspicious.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No matter how formidable your rivals are you can still defeat them. While they are busy bragging about what they are going to do, you will be the one actually doing things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Keep your thoughts to yourself today. You may be bursting to tell the world what you know but there is a flaw in your understanding. If you speak too soon you could look silly.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If friends and family give you advice today you should listen to it. If you don't you may regret it towards the end of the week. They are not trying to interfere — they are trying to help.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't expect everything to come easy to you on the work front today or tomorrow. Mars in the career area of your chart may make it look as if others are being obstructive but only because they see you as a threat.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If trying to figure it out gives you a headache then give up. You don't have to know it all, you don't have to be the best informed. Switch off your brain today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

7			1		4			2
		3				1		
			8		3			
4		2				5		8
1		7				2		9
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8			6		1			5

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

2	8	9	6	5	7	4	3	1
3	1	6	4	2	8	7	5	9
4	5	7	3	1	9	2	8	6
1	3	5	7	8	2	6	9	4
7	9	8	5	6	4	3	1	2
6	2	4	1	9	3	8	7	5
5	4	1	8	3	6	9	2	7
8	7	2	9	4	5	1	6	3
9	6	3	2	7	1	5	4	8

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Online Programs Available:
Accounting Assistant
Administrative Professional
Business Administration Management [Ne
Computer Support Technician [New]
Health Care Aide Challenge
Legal Assistant
Logistics & Supply Chain Management
Medical Office Assistant
Medical Terminology
Mobile Applications
Network Security Technician [New]
Oil & Gas Administrator
Project Management
Small Business Management
Travel Counsellor
Veterinary Office Assistant